

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 RSR-01

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R 011113Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7024

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2297

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KU QA TC

SUBJ: QATARI-KUWAITI AND QATARI-UAE RELATIONS

SUMMARY: QATARI FONMIN TOLD ME JUNE 24 THAT QATAR DECLINED SIGN BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT OFFERED BY KUWAITI FONMIN SABAH BECAUSE THEY HAD NO OPPORTUNITY STUDY THEM BEFOREHAND. HOWEVER QATAR EXPECTED SIGN EVENTUALLY. FONMIN ALSO SAID SHAIKH SAQR OF RAS AL-KHAIMA RECENTLY VISITED QATAR FOR HANDOUT, BUT QATARI RULER MADE CLEAR SAQR WOULD GET NO ASSISTANCE AGAINST ZAYID AND QATAR'S BEST INTERESTS SERVED BY STRONG UAE. END SUMMARY

1. I SAW QATARI FONMIN SHAIKH SUHAIM DURING BRIEF STOPOVER IN DOHA JUNE 24 ENROUTE ABU DHABI. I ASKED HIM ABOUT RESULTS OF RECENT VISIT OF KUWAITI FONMIN TO QATAR AND IF REPORTS THAT VISIT HAD NOT BEEN UNMITIGATED SUCCESS WERE TRUE. SUHAIM REPLIED KUWAITIS HAD IGNORED REPEATED QATARI REQUESTS FOR ADVANCE MATERIAL OR BRIEFING ON PROPOSALS THEY HAD IN MIND (COVERING BILATERAL ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL COOPERATION). RESULT WAS THAT WHEN KUWAITIS ARRIVED AND (ACCORDING SUHAIM) CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMANDED IMMEDIATE QATARI AGREEMENT TO PROPOSALS THEY HAD JUSTA

SEEN FOR FIRST TIME, QATARIS HAD TO TURN THEM DOWN ON GROUNDS THEY REQUIRED STUDY. REST OF SABAH'S VISIT HAD BEEN RATHER TENSE. SUHAIM ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE EXPECTED AGREEMENT KUWAITIS WERE SEEKING WOULD EVENTUALLY BE SIGNED BY QATAR.

2. SUHAIM INFORMED ME SHAIKH SAQR OF RAS AL-KHAIMA HAD VISITED DOHA WEEK BEFORE, LOOKING FOR A HAND-OUT. SAQR HAD CRITICIZED UAE PRESIDENT ZAYID WHO, SAQR CLAIMED, IGNORED HIM AND GENERALLY DID AS HE PLEASED IN UAE. SUHAIM SAID HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT QATARI RULER KHALIFA AND HE HAD LISTENED TO SAQR BUT HAD MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR TO HIM (A) THAT HE COULD EXPECT NO ASSISTANCE AGAINST ZAYID AND (B) QATARI INTERESTS WERE BEST SERVED BY UAE THAT WAS STRONG NOT WEAK.

3. SUHAIM SAID HE WOULD BE VISITING ABU DHABI SHORTLY. (NOTE: HE DID SO JUNE 27-28.) HE ADDED THAT WHAT SHAIKH KHALIFA AND HE REALLY WISHED KNOW WAS TRUE CURRENT ATTITUDE OF DUBAI'S SHAIKH RASHID TOWARD QATAR. NATURALLY IT WAS WORRISOME THAT RASHID CONTINUED TO HARBOR FORMER QATARI RULER AHMAD AND HIS MENTALLY DISTURBED SON ABD AL-AZIZ IN DUBAI. HOWEVER, KHALIFA WAS NOW PREPARED TO TRY TO CLEAR AIR WITH RASHID.

4. SUHAIM WAS INTERESTED IN STATUS OF KUWAIT-IRAQI RELATIONS AND US ARMS SALES TO KUWAIT WHICH HE SAID GOQ THOROUGHLY APPROVED OF. I GAVE HIM GENERAL RUNDOWN, AND ALSO WISHED HIM LUCK IN HIS MISSION TO UAE.
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